The Charge of the Church-wardens and Side-men.

HAving received a Copy of this Book, you are required to repair to your Miniſter; to hear all theſe Articles duly and deliberately read over to you; duly, and diligently to conſider of them; and by his Advice, (and if need be, with his Concurrence) to Preſent all, and every ſuch Perſon or Perſons of your Pariſh, as have committed any Offence, or made any Default, mentioned in theſe Articles, or any of them; or which are vehemently ſuſpected for the ſame: Wherein you are to deal uprightly, and impartially; all Affection and Favour, all Hatred and Malice, all hope of Reward, or Advantage, and fear of Diſpleaſure ſet aſide; Signing ſuch your Preſentments with your Hands.

The Form of their Oath.

YOu ſhall Swear, Truly and Faithfully, to Execute the Office of Church-warden, according to the beſt of your Skill and Knowledge. So help you God.

Church of England. Visitation Articles. Exeter

ARTICLES
OF
Viſitation and Enquiry
Concerning Matters
ECCLESIASTICAL.
EXHIBITED
To the Miniſters, Church-Wardens and Side-Men, of every Pariſh, within the
Dioceſs of Exeter,
At the Primary
VISITATION
OF THE
Right Reverend Father in GOD,
JONATHAN,
By Divine Permiſſion,
LORD Biſhop of *EXETER*,
In the Year of our Lord, 1689.

LONDON, Printed, MDCLXXXIX.

ARTICLES
OF
Viſitation and Enquiry
Within the
DIOCESS of *EXETER.*

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels; the Fabrick, Furniture, and Ornaments thereof.

1. IS your Pariſh-Church or Chappel, kept in good and ſufficient Repair? Are the Utenſiles and Ornaments fairly kept, and preſerved from Spoil, Abuſe, and Prophanation? And all things ſo decently ordered as becometh the Houſe of God?

2. Hath the Steeple, or Tower, or any other part of your Church, or Chappel, been pull'd, or fallen down? Or have any of the Bells, Lead, or other Materials, or Utenſiles, formerly belonging thereunto, been Imbezelled, ſold, or made away? And by whom?

3. Is

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone, fixed in the Ancient and uſual Place in the lower part of the Church, for the Adminiſtration of Holy Baptiſm, and a comely Table for the Holy Communion, placed in the Chancel where it ought to be, with a Carpet of ſome decent Stuff, and a fair Linnen Cloath to cover it, at the time of the Adminiſtration of the Holy Euchariſt? And have you a fair Chalice or Communion-Cup with a Cover, and a Plate or Paten for the Bread, and a Flaggon for the wine, to be uſed in the Holy Communion? And are they uſed in theſe Holy Services only?

4. Have you in your ſaid Church or Chappel, a convenient Seat or Pew for your Miniſter to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit with a comely Cloath, and Cuſhion; a Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, in a large Volume; and a Book of Common-Prayer, (Eſtabliſhed by the late Act of *Uniformity*? Have you likewiſe the Book of Homilies ſet forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Conſtitutions *Eccleſiaſtical*, firſt ſet forth in the Year of our Lord, 1603. by the King's Authority? And a Printed Table of the Degrees, wherein Marriage is Prohibited?

5. Have you a comely large Surplice for the Miniſter to wear at all times of his publick Miniſtration in the Church, provided and Waſhed at the Charge of the Pariſh.

6. Have you a Regiſter-Book of Parchment wherein the Names and Sir-names of all Perſons Married, Chriſtened, or Buried within your Pariſh, are duly Regiſtered from time to time? Have you likewiſe another Book of Paper, wherein are duly Recorded the

the Names and Licenſes of all ſuch Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? As alſo a third Book, wherein are Entred the Church-wardens Accompts for every Year?

7. Have you a Cheſt or Coffer wherein to keep the aforeſaid Books, and all the aforeſaid Furniture in ſafe Cuſtody? And another with a Hole in the upper part thereof, placed in the moſt convenient part of the Church, that the Pariſhioners may put their Alms into it? And are both the ſaid Cheſts ſecured with three ſeveral Locks and Keys; one Key remaining with the Miniſter, and the other two with the Church-wardens, ſeverally.

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard; the Houſes and Glebes; the Tithes, and other Dues belonging to the Church.

1. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently Fenced and Decently kept from all Prophanation and Encroachment? Hath any Perſon made any Door into it out of his own Houſe or Ground? Who, and how long ſince?

2. Is there a Houſe belonging to your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate? And is the ſame, with all the Out-houſes thereunto belonging, kept in good and ſufficient repair? Hath any one Encroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Cloſe belonging to your Parſonage, or Vicarage-Houſe? Or changed, or removed the Ancient Marks and Bounds of the ſame.

3. Have

3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages, belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage? As Alſo a Note of ſuch Penſions, Rate-Tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Pariſh) as belong thereunto? And is there a Copy of the ſaid Terrier and Note deliver'd in, to be laid up in the Regiſter Office? Have any of theſe been with-held from your Miniſter? And when, or by whom?

4. Have any of the Ancient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parſonage, or Vicarage, been alienated, taken away, or Exchanged for others, and by whom, and when hath the ſame been done; And how much is your Parſonage or Vicarage damnified thereby, in the the yearly value thereof, as you know, believe, or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning the Clergy.

1. IS your Miniſter (ſo far as you know, or believe) in Holy Orders, according to the Rules of the Church of *England*? Is he Lawfully admitted to the Cure of Souls in your Pariſh, as you believe or have heard? Or is he reported or ſuſpected to have obtained either his Orders by any undue Practices, or Benefice by any Simoniacal Contract?

2. Did he within two Months after his Induction, publickly in the Church upon ſome *Sunday* or Holy-day,

day, in the time of Divine Service, Read the Thirty Nine Articles of the Church of *England*, Eſtabliſhed by Authority, and there publickly declare his Aſſent thereunto? Did he within the ſame time, upon ſome Lord's-day, publickly read the appointed Morning and Evening-Prayers, and thereafter declare his unfeigned Aſſent and Conſent to the uſe of all things in the Book of Common-Prayer, contained in the Form preſcribed by the late Act of *Uniformity*?

3. Is there any Chappel or Chappels of Eaſe, or Parochial, belonging to your Mother Church? If ſo, at what diſtance are they, and how are they ſerv'd and provided for?

4. Hath your Miniſter any other Eccleſiaſtical Benefice with Cure? And how far diſtant from you, and in what Dioceſs? Is he generally Reſident among you? And when he is Reſident, doth he conſtantly live in his incumbent Houſe? Hath he any Curate uſually to aſſiſt him when Reſident? And when Abſent, on due Occaſions, doth he provide one, able, ſufficient, and Conformable to the Laws, and Orders of the Church of *England*, and duly Licenſed by the Biſhop?

5. Doth your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, read Divine Service on all *Sundays* and Holy-days; and the *Litany* (at leaſt) on every *Wedneſday* and *Friday*; and publickly Adminiſter the Holy Sacraments of *Baptiſm*, and the *Euchariſt*, at leaſt three times a Year, at the three Great *Feſtivals*, and perform all other Miniſterial Offices, and Duties, in ſuch manner and form, as is directed by the Book of *Common-Prayer*, lately Eſtabliſhed, and the Act of *Uniformity* therewith Publiſhed?

6. Doth he on the Lord's-day give notice of the Holy-days, and Faſting-days in the Week following, that the People may be put in mind, and incited to reſort to publick Prayers in the Church upon thoſe Solemn Occaſions? And doth your Miniſter and Pariſhoners obſerve the Yearly Prayers and Perambulation in *Rogation* Week, for preſerving the Bounds of the Pariſh, and deſiring God's Bleſſing upon the Fruits of the Earth?

7. Doth he himſelf conſtantly every *Sunday* (unleſs in caſe of ſickneſs, or other reaſonable impediment) Preach in your Church or Chappel; or procure a Sermon to be ſo Preached by ſome other Licens'd Preacher; or one of the Homilies ſet forth by Authority to be there read by a Prieſt, or Deacon?

8. Doth your Miniſter diligently examine and inſtruct the Youth of your Pariſh in the Church *Catechiſm*, as in the Rubrick at the end of the ſaid *Catechiſm* is Directed? And being thus prepared, and of convenient Age, doth he take care to Preſent them to a Biſhop to be Confirmed?

9. Doth he refuſe, or neglect to Viſit, Comfort, and Pray with the Sick, or to Bury the Dead? Doth he delay the Baptiſm of any Infant that is in real danger of Death; or Baptize them in any other Place than the Church, when there is no ſuch danger? And when they are (in caſe of neceſſity) thus privately Baptized, doth he cauſe them afterwards, if they live, to be brought into the Church, and certifie the Congregation of the Form of Baptiſm uſed in Private, and proceed thereupon in all Points, as in the Office of Private Baptiſm is directed?

10. Hath

10. Hath he presumed to Marry any Persons in Private Houses? Or such as being under Age, have not the consent of their Parents, or without the Banes first Published on three Sundays, or Holy-days in the Church? Or at any other Hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning? unless he had a License or Dispensation so to do, granted by such Authority, and in such Form as the Canons direct?

11. Is your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, of a sober, unblameable, and exemplary Life, given to Hospitality and Alms-deeds? Is he in his Apparrel, and in his whole outward gard and Dress, grave and decent, as the Canons of the Church require? Or, on the other side, is his Carriage and Conversation in any kind whatsoever disorderly, or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister of *Jesus Christ*?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners,

1. IS there any Person in your Parish that lieth under a common Fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Any common Drunkards, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of God's Holy Name? Or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean, or filthy Talkers; sowers or maintainers of Sedition, Faction, or Discord among their Neighbours? Or in sum, any whose Life and Manners are contrary to Godliness, Peace, and Honesty?

2. Do any of your Pariſh upon the *Sundays* or Holy-days, follow their Bodily, or ordinary Labour? Or compel, or permit their Servants ſo to do? Are any Shops kept open, or Wares ſold at ſuch times? Or do any Vintners, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers, and ſellers of Beer and Ale, ſuffer any Perſons to Tipple or Game in their Houſes upon thoſe days?

3. Have you any among you, that be denounced and declared Excommunicate? How long have they been ſo? And do any of your Pariſh keep ſociety with them, before they be reconciled to the Church and Abſolved?

4. Are there any living in your Pariſh as Man and Wife, who are within the Degrees Prohibited? Or any that being lawfully Divorced, have Married again? Or any that being lawfully Married, and not ſeparated, or Divorced by Courſe of Law, do not co-habit together?

5. Are there any belonging to your Pariſh, who refuſe to pay the juſt dues to your Miniſter? Or any that refuſe to contribute, or pay the Rate Aſſeſſed upon them, for the Repair of your Church, or Chappel, and for the providing of ſuch Books, Furniture, and Ornaments, as be requiſite for the Performance of all Divine Offices there?

6. Are there any Wills or Teſtaments of Perſons Dead in your Pariſh, that be yet Unproved? Or any Goods Adminiſtred without a due Grant from the Ordinary?

7. Is there any ſtrife, or contention among any of your Pariſh, for their Pews, or Seats in your Church? Or have any of them erected new Pews in your Chancel,

cel, or in the Body of your Church, or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

8. Do you know of any that have Abuſed the Church-wardens of your Pariſh, by giving them evil Words for Executing their Office, or to diſhearten and deter them from it, as by Oath and Duty they are bound?

TIT. V.

Concerning Pariſh-Clerks and Sextons.

1. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel, a fit Pariſh-Clerk, Aged 21. years at leaſt, of Honeſt Life and Converſation, and ſufficiently able to perform his duty in Reading, Writing, and Singing? Is he duly choſen by your Miniſter? and Licenſed by the Ordinary? And doth he diligently attend your Miniſter in all Divine Offices; audibly makeing and repeating, the Reſponſes and Suffrages, as in the Liturgy he is directed?

2. Doth he, or your Sexton, (if there be any ſuch appointed in your Pariſh) diligently look to the Doors of your Church, that they be Locked, and opened at due times? Doth he keep your Church or Chappel, clean from Dirt, Duſt, Cobwebs, and other Annoyance? Doth he Ring and Toll the Bells at the due and accuſtomed hours, before Morning and Evening Service, that the People may be warned to come unto the Church?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hoſpitals, Schools, School-maſters, Phyſicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1. IS there in your Pariſh any Hoſpital, Alms-houſe, or Free-Shool? Who was the Founder? Who is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue? What Stipends belong to the Governors, or Maſters of the ſame? Is the ſame Ordered and Governed in every reſpect, as it ought to be? And are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and the Tenour of ſuch Statutes and Ordinances, as have been made in purſuance of the ſame?

2. Have any Living, or Dying in your Pariſh, or elſewhere, given any Gift or Legacy, by Will, or otherwiſe, to the uſe of your Church, or Poor, or of the Pariſhioners in general? How is it ſetled, and in whoſe hands? And is it, or hath it been miſimployed, or diſpoſed of to other Uſes?

3. Doth any Man keep a publick or private School in your Pariſh? Is he allowed ſo to do by the Ordinary? Is he of ſober Life and honeſt Converſation, and conformable to the Doctrine and Diſcipline Eſtabliſhed? And doth he teach his Scholars good Manners, Sobriety, Modeſty and Obedience, as well as other Learning?

4. Doth any Man or Woman in your Pariſh take upon them to practice *Phyſick*, or *Chyrurgery*? Or any Woman

Woman to exerciſe the Office of a Midwife, without being firſt Examined and approved, and thereupon Licenſed by the Ordinary? Or doth any Woman take upon her to keep a School, and teach Girls, or young Women, not being duly allowed ſo to do?

TIT. VII.

Queries to be put to the Miniſter, concerning the Church-wardens and Side-men.

1. ARe the Church-wardens of your Pariſh duly choſen by the joynt conſent of the Miniſter and Pariſhioners? Or one of them by the Miniſter, and the other by the Pariſhioners? Or as the cuſtom of the Pariſh is?

2. Have the former and laſt Church-wardens given up their due Accounts to the Pariſh, and delivered up to the ſucceeding Church-wardens the Monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church, or Chappel?

3. Do they take care that no misbehaviour or diſorder be done by Men, Women, Servants, or Children, in your Church or Chappel, during the time of Divine Service?

4. Do they againſt every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a ſufficient quantity of Bread and of Wine, according to the number of Communicants, at the Pariſh Charge?

5. Do

5. Do they cauſe all *S*trangers that Preach in your Church, or Chappel, to enter their Names the ſame day in a Book provided for that purpoſe, together with the Name of the Biſhop that Licenſed them to Preach in this Dioceſs? And do they permit no other to Preach?

6. Have they (the Church-wardens and *S*ide-men) taken ſufficient time to draw up their Preſentments, and therein conſulted with you their Miniſter for your faithful Aſſiſtance?

THE Miniſters of the reſpective Pariſhes are required to give in a Liſt of the Names of all ſuch as they have Catechiſed and Prepar'd, and do judge fit to receive Confirmation, and to preſent it to the Biſhop, together with the Perſons to be Confirm'd, before the Viſitation begins.

FINIS.

Coll.
Wisteood
Books
6.24.4C